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S&H Form: (04/06)
Attorney Docket No. 1614.1163

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Fujio MORITA

Application No.: 09/841,038

Group Art Unit: 2162

Filed: April 25, 2001

Examiner: Jean B. Fleurantin

For: SEARCH SUPPORT DEVICE AND METHOD, AND RECORDING MEDIUM STORING
PROGRAM FOR COMPUTER TO CARRY OUT OPERATION WITH SAID SEARCH
SUPPORT DEVICE

**NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE PRIMARY EXAMINER
TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: After Final

Sir:

Applicant hereby appeals to the Board from the decision of the Primary Examiner mailed August 10, 2006 finally rejecting claims 1-12. The due date for a response was November 10, 2006, which being a holiday and November 11 and 12 being Saturday and Sunday renders this appeal timely filed on November 13, 2006.

The items checked below are appropriate:

1. EXTENSION OF TIME PETITION AND FEE

— Attached is a petition for a -month extension of time
for reply to the final rejection. \$ 0.00

2. APPEAL FEE

X Other than a small entity 500.00

TOTAL FEE \$ 500.00

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Claim 1 is directed to a search support device, which has:

a search unit that determines a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu [...] wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword.

Claim 1 was amended in the response filed on May 12, 2006, to further recite "and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category."

In the Office Actions (OA mailed January 12, 2006 on page 3, and final OA mailed August 10, 2006, on page 2), it is alleged that the Related Art on page 2, lines 18-33, teaches the search unit. The indicated paragraph is reproduced below in its entirety:

A URL address is normally made up of a plurality of character strings, and needs to be inputted every time an access is made to a homepage. However, while a homepage is being accessed, the bookmark is registered, so that the homepage can be promptly accessed by simply selecting the URL address from a list of registered bookmarks next time the user makes an access to the homepage.

Referring now to FIGS. 1 to 3B, the processes for searching for a homepage supposedly containing desired information with a search engine and registering the bookmark for the homepage will be described. FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a series of processes for homepage search and bookmark registration. FIGS. 2A to 3B show examples of browser screens displayed on a display unit.

Applicant argued in the response filed on May 12, 2006, that the searching unit having the features recited in claim 1 (reproduced above) is not disclosed in the indicated paragraph because when new URL information is obtained in the cited portion of the Related Art, a bookmark corresponding to the URL information is merely disposed in a manner that can only be considered as being on the same hierarchical level. The Office Action repeats the previous rejection and cites the same lines without any response to Applicant's arguments filed on May 12, 2006. Moreover, in the Office Action mailed August 10, 2006, it is alleged that the feature added on May 12, 2006 to claim 1 is disclosed by a subset of the same portion of the "Related Art" section, although the indicated portion contains no reference to different level categories.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection ignores express features of the

3. PAYMENT

☒ Check attached for the total fee of \$ 500.00.

☒ Charge Account 19-3935 for any fee deficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: November 13, 2006

By: L Todor
Luminita A. Todor
Registration No. 57,639

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501